Government as well as to the industry on account of these products. Legislations such as the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Patents Act, 1970, the Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 etc., contain provisions which can be invoked for prosecution/redressal on account of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products.

Surprise inspections by MCI

*276. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has inspected a number of medical colleges to judge their suitability for medical education;

(b) whether it is a fact that MCI conducts such inspections with surprise and suddenness;

(c) if so, whether this policy of surprise and suddenness is unproductive;

(d) whether it is also a fact that MCI is selective about the secrecy and suddenness of such visits; and

(e) the steps proposed to scrap this archaic and highly unprofessional style of conducting inspections by MCI?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) The Medical Council of India is empowered to conduct inspection of medical colleges and attached hospitals under various provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, and Regulations made thereunder for the purpose of making recommendations to the Central Government for grant of permission to establish a new college or to start new course of study or to increase in the intake capacity; for grant of annual renewal of the permission; for recognition of the medical courses under section 11(2) of the Act; and for maintaining the standard of medical education of the recognized colleges/institutions.

The Medical Council of India has been conducting regular inspection in various medical colleges and attached hospitals which are due for inspection under various categories stated above after due notice. In

some cases, the MCI also conducts surprise inspections to verify complaints, clinical material, teaching faculty etc. in order to ensure the availability of facilities for medical education. According to MCI, out of 183 inspections conducted by MCI during the year 2006 till date, only 4 surprise inspections were conducted and secrecy was maintained uniformly in all these four cases.

Lack of rainfall

*277. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of rainfall in the Northern States has become a concern as rice and other crops are likely to be affected; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per rainfall data reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the cumulative seasonal rainfall in the Northern States from 1st June, 2006, till 2nd August, 2006 has been normal in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. However, in Himachal Pradesh, the rainfall has been deficient by 22% of Long Period Average (LPA). Rainfall in a particular region/State with in the range of ±19% of LPA is considered as normal. Current monsoon/rainfall situation in the Northern States of the country is given in the following table:

Rainfall situation in northern States (1-6-2006 to 2-8-2006):

States	Normal (mm)	Actual (mm)	% Departure	Category
Uttar Pradesh	404.9	413.2	+2%	N
Uttaranchal	623.2	523.7	-16%	N
Haryana	223.5	198.0	-11%	N
Punjab	247.5	226.3	-9%	N
Himachal Pradesh	399.7	310.1	-22%	D
Jammu & Kashmir	262.2	269.1	+3%	N

Note: Normal (N):-19% to + 19% of LPA, Deficient (D):- 20% to -59% of LPA